

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 20791 221653Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1549

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 20791

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH, SF

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: COMMENT ON FOURIE'S VISIT

REF: A) LONDON 20718; B) LONDON 20746

1. IN OUR VIEW THE FOURIE VISIT TO LONDON ACHIEVED THE OBJECTIVES WE SOUGHT. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, FOURIE LEARNED THAT WE SEE LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS IN SMITH'S INTERNAL TALKS, AND THAT EVEN IF AN AGREE-
MENT IS REACHED, ITS IMPLEMENTATION WOULD LIKELY EX-
ACERBATE INSTABILITY IN THE REGION. HE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE HAS NOT BEEN SHELVED AND THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO PRESS FORWARD. DAVID OWEN'S PRESENTATION WAS FORCEFUL AND EFFECTIVE; HIS TALKING POINTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN BY DICK MOOSE.

2. FOURIE DID NOT REVEAL MUCH ABOUT CURRENT SOUTH
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AFRICAN THINKING ON RHODESIA BUT HE CONFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. HE PROBABLY GIVES SMITH A GREATER CHANCE OF PUTTING TOGETHER AN INTERNAL AGREEMENT, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF SOMETHING BETTER AND MORE CERTAIN, IS UNWILLING TO STAND IN SMITH'S WAY.

3. ON THE MILITARY SIDE, FOURIE LEARNED FROM CARVER THAT THE PLAN FOR SECURITY DURING THE TRANSITION AND THE SCHEME FOR A NATIONAL ARMY ARE NOT THE FORMULA FOR CHAOS WHICH SMITH HAD LED THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO BELIEVE. FOURIE RECOGNIZED THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE NEGOTIATED, BUT HE DID NOT REGARD THE CONCEPTS AS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE OR PRACTICALLY UNWORKABLE. (AT THE SAME TIME, IT NOW SEEMS MORE IMPORTANT FOR CARVER TO FIX AN OPPORTUNITY SOON TO MAKE A SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO MACHEL.)

4. IN THE FIRST SESSION WITH OWEN, FOURIE SAID THAT THE SECURITY PROVISIONS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS POSED THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT FOR OUR INITIATIVE; IF FOURIE WAS INDEED BROADLY REASSURED BY CARVER, THEN THE PROSPECTS OF MORE ACTIVE SOUTH AFRICAN COOPERATION FURTHER DOWN THE LINE SHOULD BE GREATER.

BREWSTER

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